Purchase of Brief Cases

296. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of brief cases purchased in each of the last three years by the Air Headquarter, Naval Headquarter and the Chief Administrative Office;

(b) the average life of a briefcase and the number of them condemned;

(c) the total number of entitled officers of briefcases; and

(d) the reasons for excess purchase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The details are as follows :

Number of Briefcases purchased

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Air Headquarters	128	158	67
Naval Headquarters	82	62	41
Office of the Joint Secretary (Training) & Chief Administrative Officer	105	238	275

(b) The life of a briefcase is normally treated as 4 to 5 years from the date of issue. The number of briefcases condemned during the last three years by Air Headquarters, Naval Headquarters and the Office of Joint Secretary (Training) & Chief Administrative Officer are 243, 306 and 132 respectively.

(c) The total number of officers entitled for briefcases catered for by Air Headquarters, Naval Headquarters and the Office of the Joint Secretary (Training) & Chief Administrative Officer are approximately 750, 550 and 2500 respectively.

(d) Does not arise, as no excess purchase has been made.

[Translation]

Institute of Child Care

297. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a special institute for the child care;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Military exercises by India and Britain

298. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Britain have prepared any plan to conduct the biggest ever joint Military exercise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above mentioned plan is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) While Government have arrangements with the UK for promoting defence cooperation between the two countries, they do not at present have any plan to conduct the biggest ever joint military exercise with the U.K.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Functional Procedure of Cantonment Board

299. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the functional procedure of a Cantonment Board;

(b) the facilities provided to the elected representatives in Cantonment Board;

(c) whether any suggestions have been received by the Government to bring improvement in the functioning of the present Cantonment Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The functional procedure of a Cantonment Board is regulated under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924 and the Rules thereunder.

(b) Travelling allowance facility is available to the representatives of the Board for official journey performed.

(c) and (d) Certain suggestions pertaining to the functioning of the Cantonment Boards have been received from time to time such as those relating to increase in the number of members of the Board, nomination of MPs and MLAs, reservation for women and other backward classes on the Board, to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924 to